

Teachers of the year named for school districts

□ Brian Eggleston and Sherry Busby will be honored at annual chamber dinner

By Danielle Frost
Post-Record staff

Dedicated. Motivating. Caring.

These are the adjectives that colleagues and supervisors use to describe teachers Sherry Busby and Brian Eggleston.

They are from the Camas and Washougal school districts, respectively, and have been named Teacher of the Year.

They will be honored for going above and beyond the call of duty at the annual Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce award banquet Tuesday, June 8, at Camas Meadows Golf Club.

The two were selected from among several nominees in their districts. Busby is the marketing teacher at Camas High School, and also serves as the DECA team advisor. The group is part of an international association of marketing students. Busby was also named state DECA advisor of the year for Washington.

Eggleston is a Spanish teacher at Washougal High School and has also served as the foreign language department chairperson and the Spanish Club advisor. He is currently a candidate for certification with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Sherry Busby

Although her "official" retirement will begin this summer, Busby doesn't plan on doing too much relaxing. She'll be opening a tearoom in the Columbia River Gorge, just outside of Washougal.

"I'm taking my own advice and I've done the research and know quite a bit about tea now," she said.



CHS marketing teacher Sherry Busby stands proudly by a display case featuring this year's DECA accolades. She has been leading the program for nine years, and has seen a record number of her students go to state. Brian Eggleston, right, is a Spanish teacher at WHS who has greatly expanded the program since coming to the school five years ago.

"I'm really excited about my future adventures."

Busby, who has taught marketing classes and advised DECA for nine years at CHS, is leaving after a year of accolades and accomplishments: A record 51 students qualified for the state DECA tournament, 10 of which eventually qualified for international competition. She was also named state DECA Advisor of the Year and as the icing on the cake, Teacher of the Year for Camas.

"I had a vision for the program when I was hired here," she said. "I came up with a five-year plan and did it in four."

When asked what she'll miss the most about CHS, Busby replied, "The students. I just fall in love with them every year and I get so attached," she said. "I may be done officially in June, but I'll still continue to teach. It will just be tea and etiquette classes. I can't imagine the sharing of knowledge just walking out.

I've been 'teaching' since I was 5 years old. It's one of those things that will never leave my life."

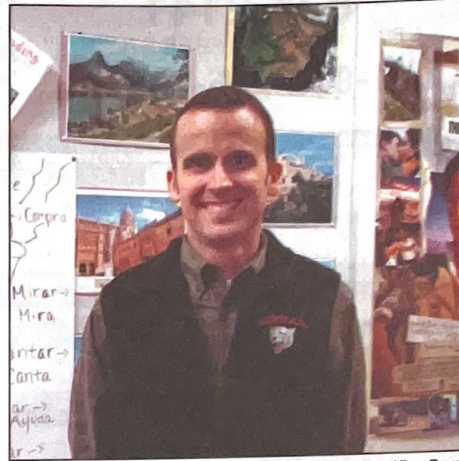
When Busby found out she'd been selected as teacher of the year, she was, "blown away."

"When I look at all of my colleagues and see all the deserving individuals, to know I have been selected is humbling," she said.

Tanis Knight, Camas assistant superintendent, said Busby is a "master teacher and nurturer."

"When Sherry came to the district, our marketing program was essentially non-existent," she said.

"Since that time she has attracted hundreds of students. I know students who have worked with her and competed for her program. They will tell you that the skills, polish and professional speaking techniques they have learned have been enormously valuable in college and beyond. She makes students believe in themselves."



DANIELLE FROST / POST-RECORD

Steve Marshall, CHS principal, added, "Sherry is a great teacher because she facilitates student learning. Rather than lecture about concepts, she provides her students with learning experiences through which they demonstrate their skills and understanding. Sherry cares about the students and they care about her."

Brian Eggleston

Eggleston sees teaching as an art that has to continually evolve and improve.

"I'm always learning," Eggleston said. "Learning is an active process, so we have to teach through activities that are engaging, worthwhile and purposeful." Some of these activities include hosting a Spanish club, celebrating Cinco de Mayo and delving into different Hispanic customs, such as salsa dancing and breaking Piñatas.

"I like to give the kids a reason to be active participants beyond getting a credit for the class," he

said. "They gain a lot more from it that way."

Before coming to the Washougal School District five years ago, Eggleston taught Spanish in Oakland, Calif., and English in Madrid, Spain.

"I am fortunate to work with a tremendous group of people here at the high school," he said. "There's a great emphasis on collaboration, which is healthy and necessary for a well-functioning school. Foreign language is a great challenge to teach well. We exchange lots of ideas and are able to grow professionally."

Rochelle Aiton, a fellow Spanish teacher, nominated Eggleston for Teacher of the Year.

"I was new to the district at the beginning of last year and Brian welcomed me with open arms," she said. "We both teach first year Spanish classes and because I was hired a few days before the first class started, he shared his lesson plans with me. He continued

his generosity throughout the year, sharing his plans, games, stories and general creativity."

She said she nominated Eggleston because of his ability to go "above and beyond."

"He carries himself with an attitude of enthusiasm for learning, teaching and self-improvement," Aiton said. "He studies best-practices and applies them to his teaching, and works hours beyond what his minimal pay requires."

The feeling is mutual. "I'm really fortunate to work with Rochelle," Eggleston said. "She is responsible for the growth of the Spanish program, too. "I'm impressed with the level of Spanish proficiency at this school. It's an accomplishment, and her kudos, too."

Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Miner said she and Eggleston were once in a group setting with other teachers where they each shared a Spanish lesson plan. The goal was to receive feedback and see which plan was the most engaging.

"I used to be a Spanish teacher, so I volunteered to share a lesson, and people participated," she said. "Then Brian did his lesson. His peers took a ton of ideas away, and I actually had to stop them finally because it was time to move on to the next activity. That's how good it was."

Eggleston said his first reaction to being named Teacher of the Year was disbelief.

"It was announced during my sixth period class, and the kids burst into applause," he said. "It seemed pretty natural to them, but I felt shocked and couldn't grasp that it was actually happening."

Miner, who was there to announce the news, agreed.

"Brian was much more surprised than his students were," she said. "They recognized what a wonderful teacher he was."